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ML and Wilberforce U. sign education partnership

by **Pete Meltzer Jr., Materials and Manufacturing Directorate**

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio

— The Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (ML) and Wilberforce University entered into a new era of cooperation December 19, signing an "Educational Partnership Agreement" developed to encourage the study of science, mathematics and engineering.

The agreement sets a number of cooperative measures into motion, including a special provision that enables Wilberforce University students and faculty to take part in ML research and development projects in exchange for academic credit, and another that enables ML to loan or transfer surplus research equipment to the school.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Charles E. Browning, ML's director, and Wilberforce University President, Dr. Floyd H. Flake during formal ceremonies at the ML laboratory complex. Distinguished guests at the signing also included Dr. Elvalee Banks, vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Emeka Morah, vice president of Adult and Continuing Education, and Moses Griffin, executive assistant to the president of the University.

The ceremony was preceded by a tour of ML laboratory facilities and briefings from engineers and scientists. Dr. Flake and the distinguished guests also met with AFRL Commander, Maj. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen, during their visit.

"The Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) provides Wilberforce University faculty and students with access to ML's hardware, personnel and facilities, and provides a unique opportunity to work in an R&D setting that would not otherwise be available in an educational environment," stated Dr. Edmund H. Moore, a materials engineer and program manager in the directorate's Systems Support Division, who helped coordinate the effort.

"The students and faculty will have an opportunity to work within ML's unique laboratory facilities and benefit from the expertise here, and the school will be able to acquire surplus research instrumentation through loan or transfer," Moore explained, citing as an example, surplus computing equipment soon



Dr. Charles E. Browning, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, right, signs the new Educational Partnership Agreement with Dr. Floyd H. Flake, president of Wilberforce University.

to be turned over to the school by the directorate's Survivability and Sensor Materials Division.

AFRL personnel will be available to teach courses related to science, mathematics and engineering and to assist in developing these types of courses. A member of ML's Manufacturing Technology Division recently completed a two-year career-broadening assignment teaching mathematics there, Moore said.

AFRL personnel will also be available to provide academic and career advice assistance to students. In some instances, students join ML as full-time researchers, he added.

The EPA with Wilberforce University is not the first time ML has entered into a partnership with education. The directorate signed a similar agreement with Tuskegee University in 2001. In addition, several ML scientists and engineers serve as mentors and adjunct professors at neighboring universities. ML also plays an active role in educational outreach programs with Dayton-area public schools. @